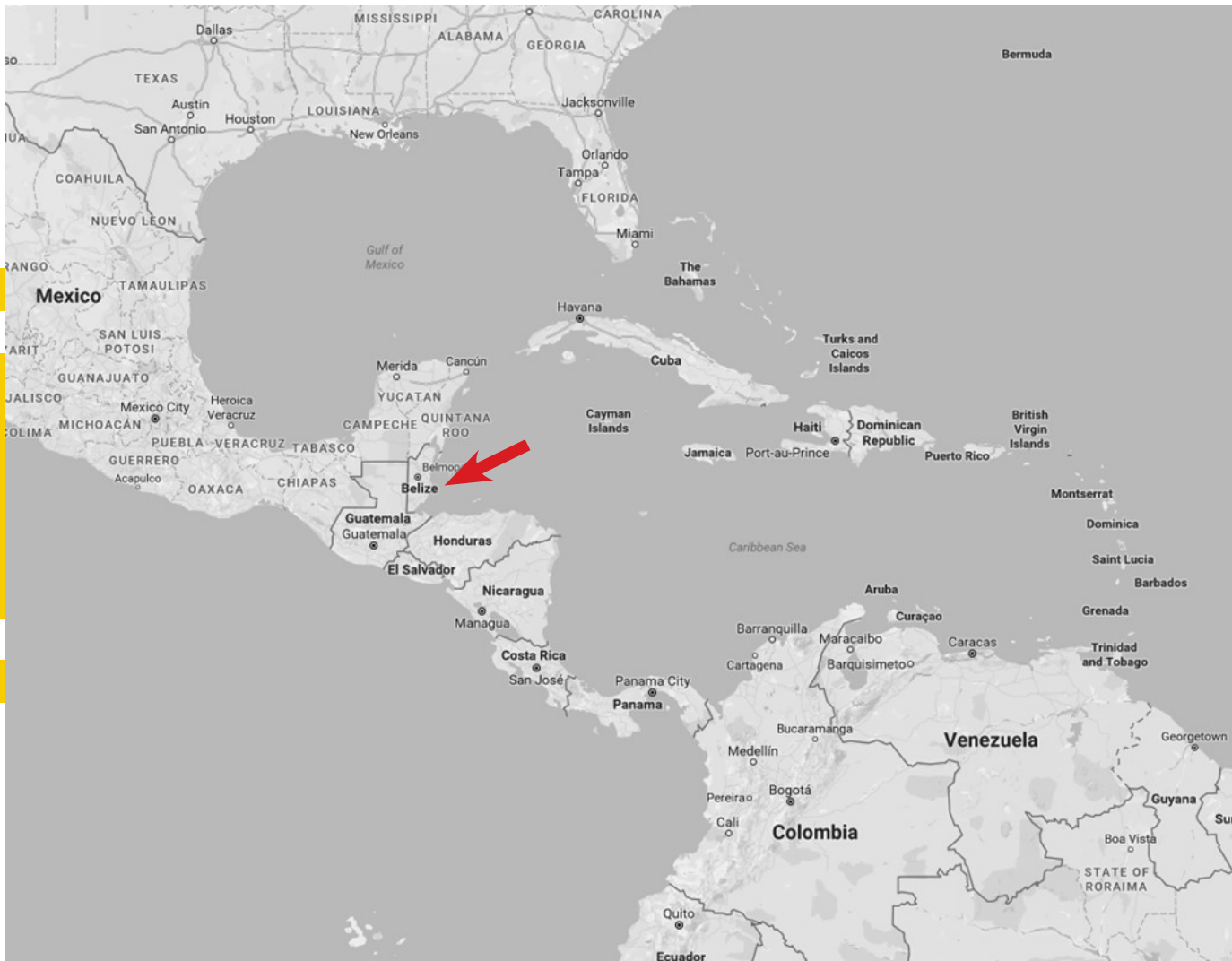


BELIZE CITY

BLUE-GREEN CORRIDOR PLAN

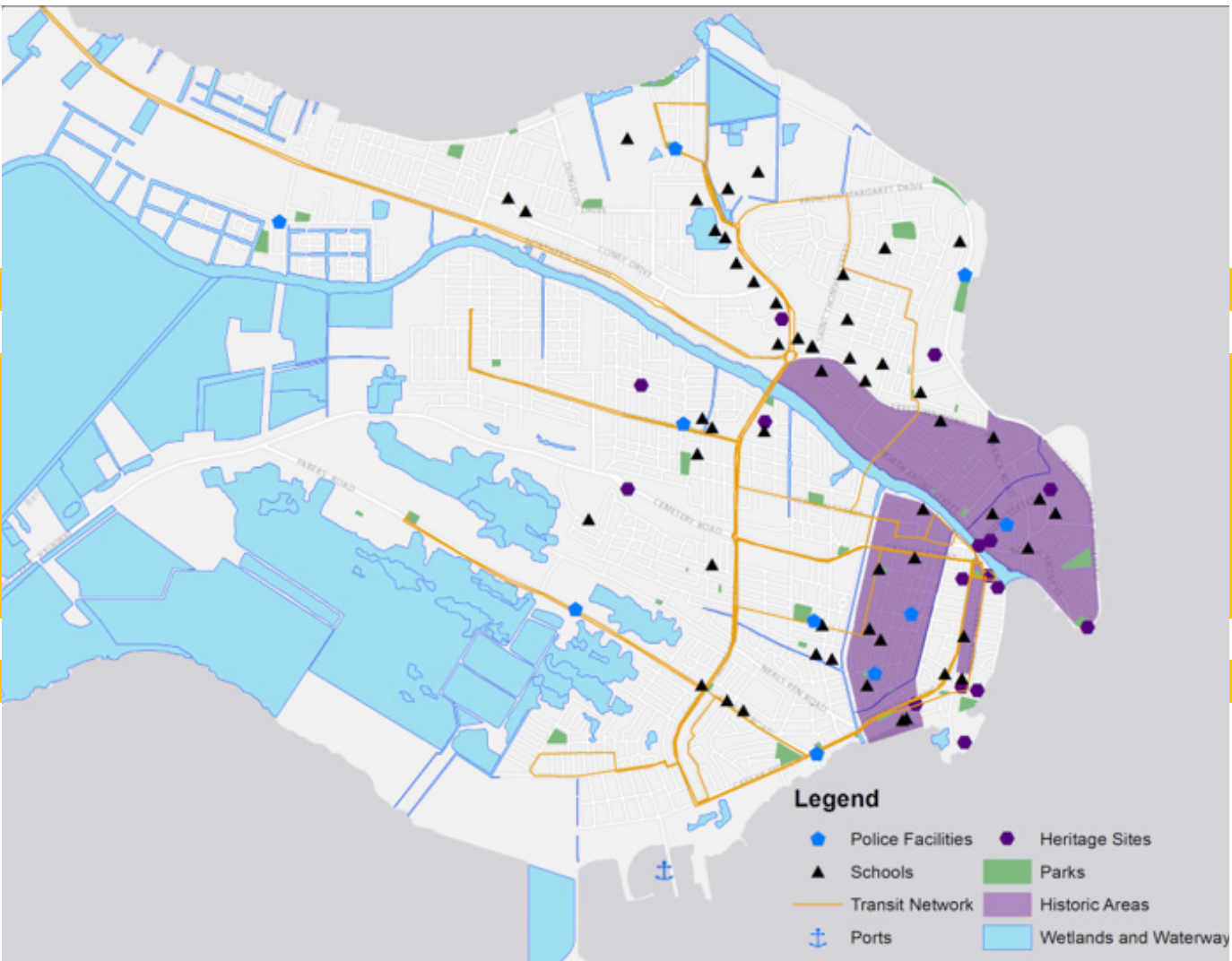
BACKGROUND & EXISTING CONDITIONS



Development of this blue-green corridor vision was a collaborative effort between OSU City Planning students, the Belize Association of Planners, Belize City Council and a variety of other stakeholders. The goal of this project was to develop a vision to unify recreational, green and ecological spaces in Belize City, with the intent of promoting sustainability, resilience, safety, and inclusivity of all Belizeans, particularly those in vulnerable communities.



Belize City is located on Belize's eastern coast in the Belize District. It is the most populous city in the country with approximately 57,000 residents. The country is bordered by Mexico to the north, Honduras to the west and south, and The Caribbean Sea to the east. The composition of Belize is truly multicultural and the country is home to: Chinese, Creole, East Indian, European, Garifuna, Maya, Mennonite, and Mestizo people.



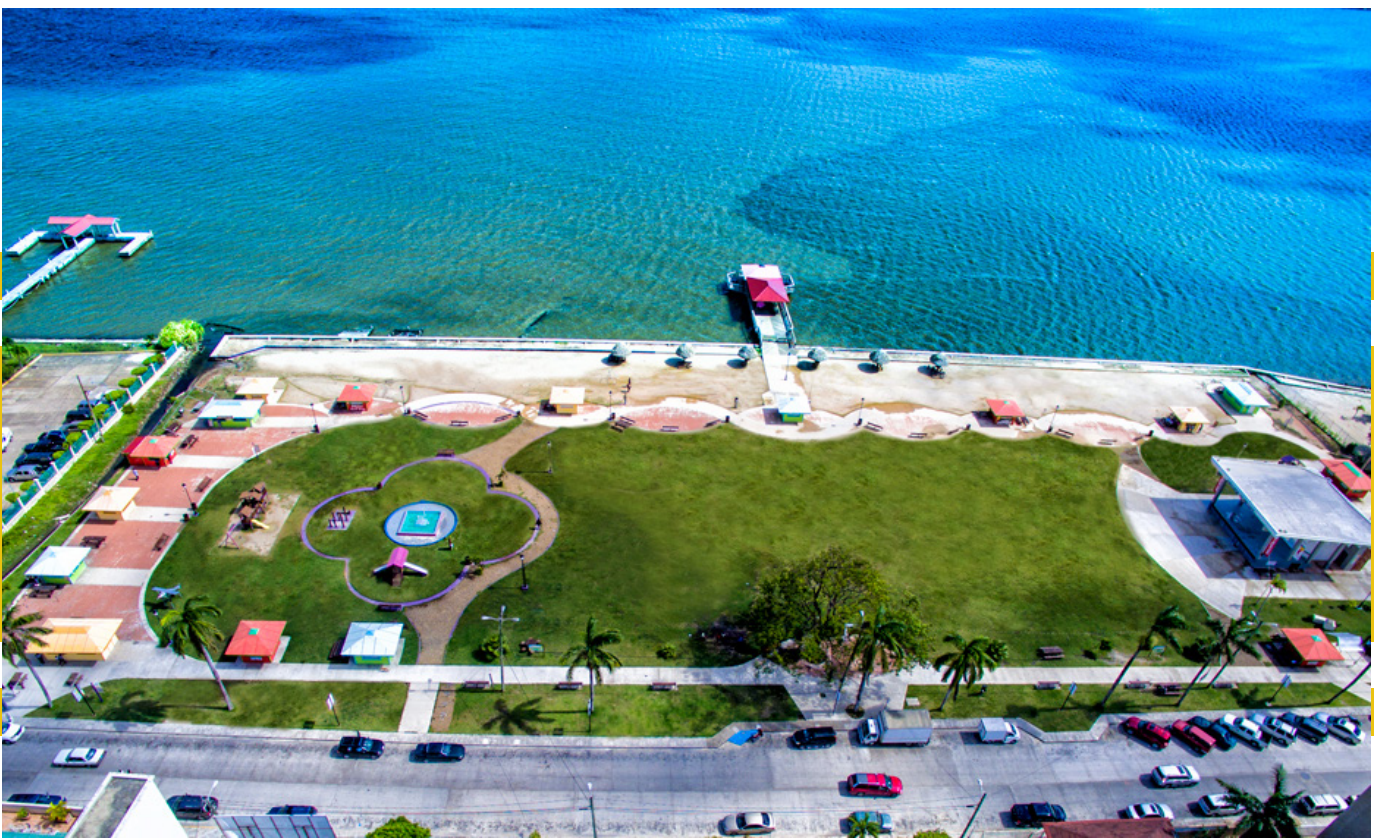
The city currently offers 47 parks and green spaces. Haulover Creek bisects the city into northern and southern portions, while a number of smaller canals cut through the city. Access to parks varies throughout the city, but tends to be most limited in lower income neighborhoods. This vision seeks to expand access to parks and to the blue-green corridor, providing connections to these amenities within 0.3km for all Belize City residents.



Trash collection is a relatively common issue for parks and green spaces in Belize City. Research on existing conditions revealed that only 34% of all parks offer trash receptacles. Park safety is another concern, and only 68% of the existing parks offer lighting.



Typical parks in the city are designed for playing sports such as basketball and soccer, and are often male-dominated. Limited park programming detracts from park desirability, particularly for those interested in leisure activities.



BTL Park (pictured above) is one of the more popular and well maintained parks in Belize City. This park offers an idyllic setting on the sea, complete with vendors, leisure space and a stage for productions. Shade from tree canopy coverage is limited, however, and was found to be only 8% on average across all 47 parks assessed.

PLANNING PROCESS

MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan for Belize City focuses on:

- » Water
- » Land
- » Transportation
- » People

The master plan provided insight on existing planning issues and stated goals, helping to direct the scope of our vision for a blue-green network in Belize City.

DIALOGUE

Development of this vision required on-going dialogue with planning professionals in Belize City, a representative from the Belize City Council, and the owner of a private construction firm, with in country park development experience. Access to first hand data is a major challenge when planning internationally, So the cultivation of relationships with professionals in country was key to the execution of this project.

DATA ANALYSIS

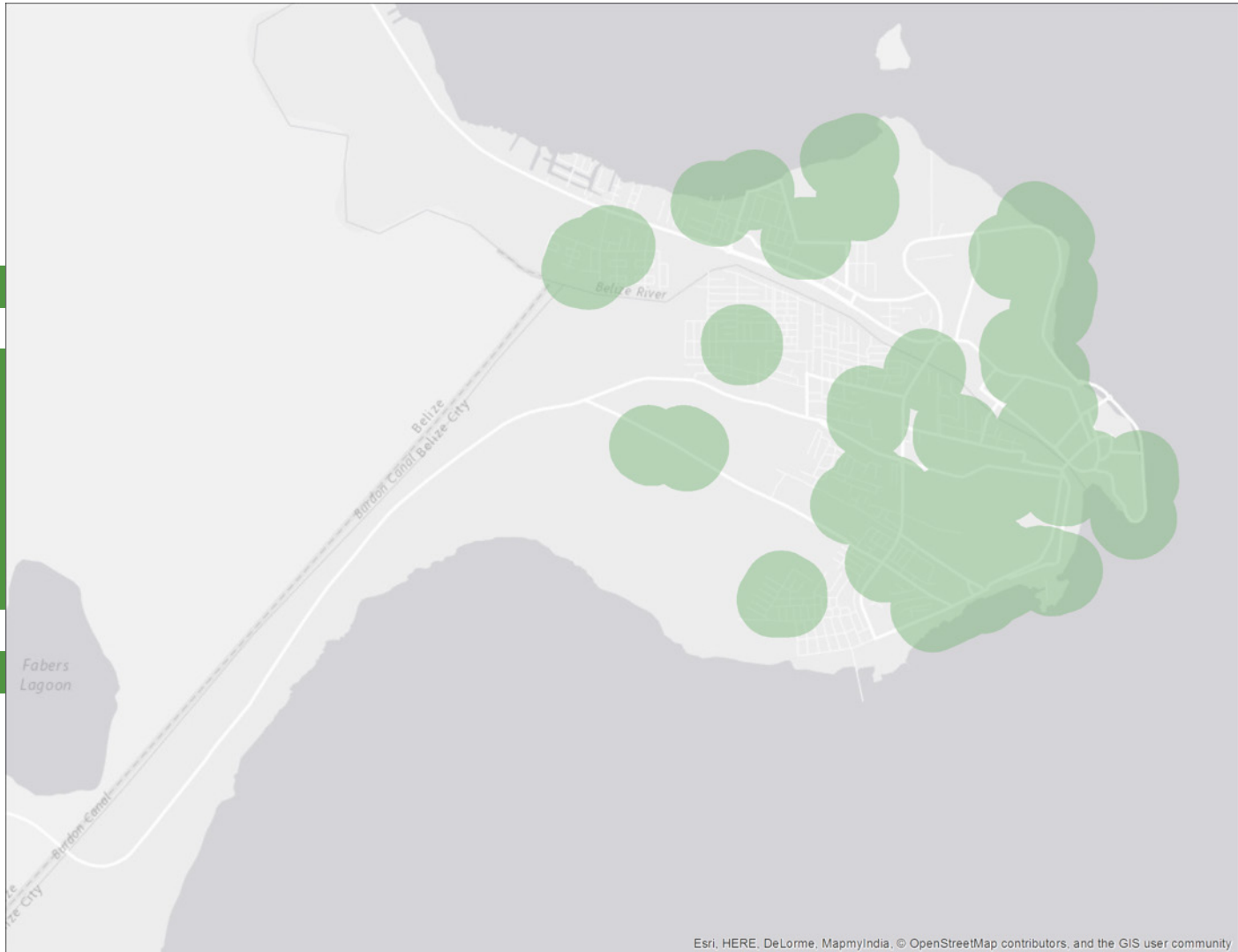
The Belize Association of Planners provided us GIS data, a survey of all existing parks, and pictures--all of which were invaluable to our assessment of existing conditions. The GIS data and park survey tool enabled the student planning team to complete a GAP analysis, identifying issues related to park access, amenities, and maintenance. The results of this analysis informed many of our recommendations.

SURVEY TOOL

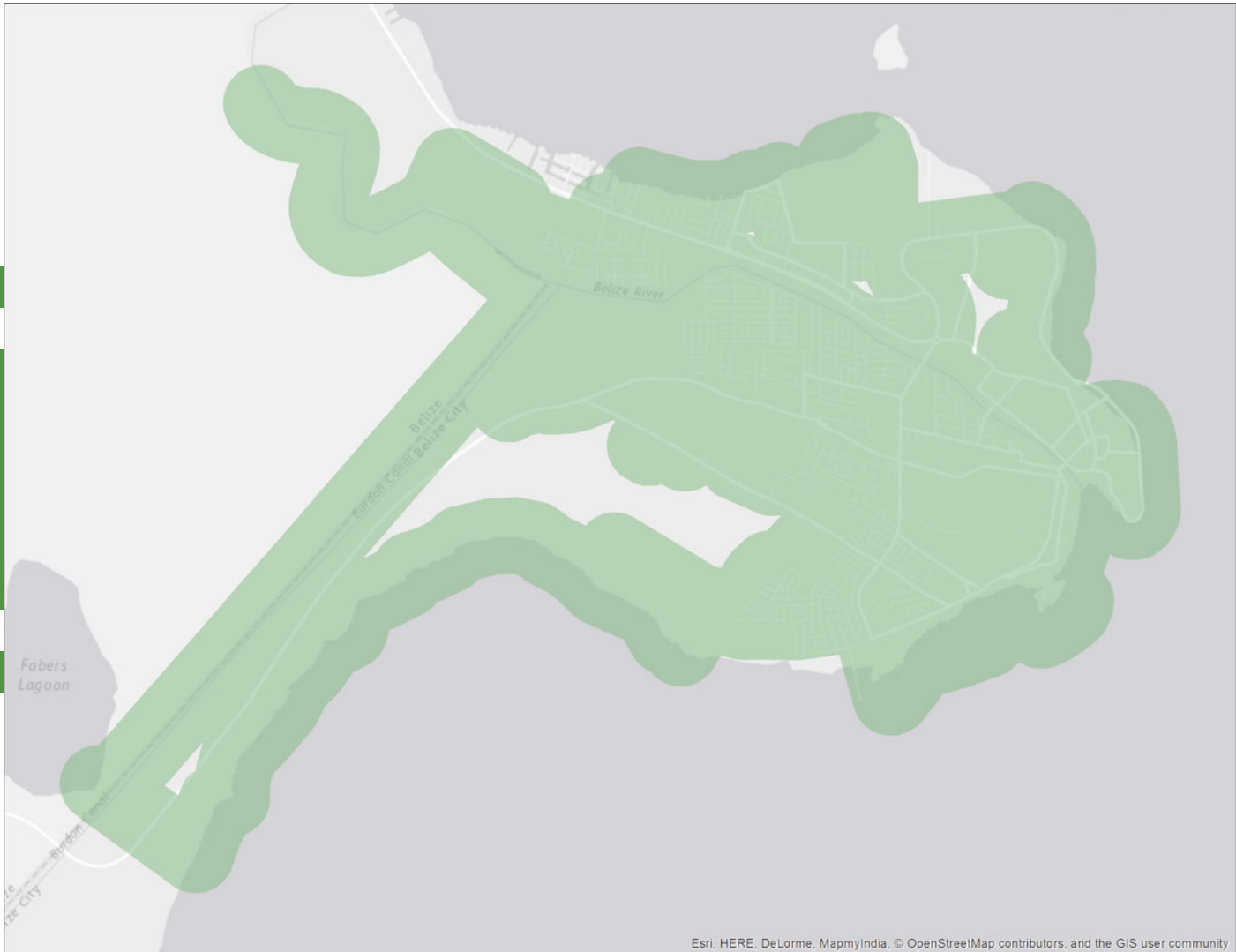
An IRB approved survey was created to evaluate how citizens use the existing parks, identify issues and perceptions, and gauge what citizens would like to see in the future. The survey was not implemented due to timing issues, but the Belize Association of Planners intends to use it as part of a larger public engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Park Accessibility (within 0.3km)



Proposed Park & Greenway Accessibility (within 0.3km)



Proposed Blue-Green Network Connectivity

